



News Release

Arizona Department of Public Safety

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Quartzsite Police Officer Shot **Investigative Leads Identified**

Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred in Quartzsite, Arizona in the early morning hours of May 17, 2007. Investigators have identified several people considered to be investigative leads, and need the public's assistance in locating them.

The circumstances of the shooting are still being investigated, but DPS Detectives have learned that Officer Kemp, from the Quartzsite Police Department, conducted a traffic stop on a 1976 Ford Motor Home around 5 a.m. As Officer Kemp began to exit his patrol car, several shots were fired at him from the motor home from an unknown number of suspects. After the officer was shot, the driver of the motor home fled the scene. Investigators found the motor home soon after, abandoned in the La Posa Campground parking lot in the Quartzsite area.

Investigators have learned the motor home was registered to Kenneth W. Miller and Betty Lou Japel (photos attached), both from McMinnville, Oregon. The license plate on the motor home at the time of the shooting belonged on a 1986 Dodge pickup truck, which is also registered to the couple. That Dodge pickup truck, described as a black and silver Dodge Ram 50, is missing, along with the Oregon license plate that should have been on the motor home, which is "H109178". It is unknown at this time where Kenneth and Betty Lou are, but DPS investigators are concerned for their safety.

Following leads from local community members in Quartzsite, investigators are trying to locate a person known only by the nickname "Groundhog" who is thought to be an investigative lead. He is believed to be a white male, approximately 6' 2" with brown eyes, weighing 275 pounds and having a bald head and is believed to stay in Quartzsite.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to call 602-223-2212.

*****Missing*****

Miller, Kenneth William Age 73
5'10" 190 pounds



*****Missing*****

Japel, Betty Lou
Age 69
5'5" 140 pounds



The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.